

THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION  
INITIATIVE ON INTERNATIONAL  
VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE

**POLICY MAKER FORUM**

2:00 PM

Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

INTRODUCTION:

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FEATURED SPEAKERS:

THE HONORABLE JIM WALSH

U.S. House of Representatives (New York)

THE HONORABLE NORM COLEMAN

U.S. Senate (Minnesota)

THE HONORABLE HARRIS WOFFORD

Senior Fellow

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P R O C E E D I N G S

HON. WALSH: In my call from the Peace  
Corps, they said, "You are going to Nepal."

I said, "Great, where is Nepal?"

My, how the world has changed. I thought I was fairly worldly, but obviously I wasn't.

The Peace Corps said, "You will be an agricultural extension agent."

I said, "That is perfect. I have been cutting the lawn and trimming the hedges since I was about eight years old. I can do that. I can teach agents how to grow rice." Actually, I did work on an apple farm one summer.

So, off I went, and I went to U.C.-Davis in California. We divided our days, our 16 to 18-hour days up between a third language training, a third cross-cultural training, and a third agricultural training. I actually grew something for the first time in my life and did quite well at it. I found it was something that I really enjoyed.

I went from there to International Rice Institute in the Philippines where I saw rice growing for the first time. I thought it was kind of essential that I see it growing before I teach people how to plant it. But I really wasn't teaching them how to grow things. I was just teaching them

different ways, different methods.

Anyway, it was a dramatic learning curve for me in so many ways. I lived a fairly sheltered life. So I saw the Philippines and sensed Asia for the first time, the Asian smells, the Asian looks, the Asian people. I had never experienced anything quite like it. It was dramatic and wonderful.

I went to Nepal and trained for about six weeks. Of course, we had a psychiatrist watching us all the time which is a little unsettling. They want to know how we are going to handle these strange new conditions. Actually, we did a lot better than the psyches because two of them dropped out along the way. But it was really wonderful and challenged. It challenged every fiber.

Then one of the instructors who had a motorcycle took me out on the motorcycle down this new road that they were building the length of Nepal. They didn't have a road that went east and west in Nepal at the time. So we went out on his motorcycle, and we went along the part of the road that had bridges already built and then we had to go to the

part of the road that didn't have bridges yet. So we would cross the streams and rivers on the bike or else walk the motorbike across.

Anyway, I saw my village. He took me to where my village was, and it was this really deforested, partially deforested part of the jungle in the Terai Region of Nepal which is the plains. Nepal is Himalayans, obviously, but the first third of the country from south to north is plains and it is all jungle. There was all mustard growing. It was the most brilliant, beautiful yellow you have seen in this lush, rich forest. It was love at first sight.

I lived there for two years. I worked with farmers. I grew wheat, corn, rice, worked in fruit farming. I did a little animal husbandry. I actually had a miserable failure at fish farming, as many failures as successes, for sure. But the work routine was very agricultural. It was busy during harvest, busy during planting, busy when we irrigated -- we did fertilize, something they hadn't done before -- and in between, large blocks of time where you just went to the tea shop and talked about politics and talked

about religion and talked about philosophy and hopes and dreams. It was wonderful.

It was very challenging. I was sick a lot of the time, sick pretty much all the time, but you learned to deal with it.

Of course, we had conferences along the way where we would get together and we had an apartment, a dera, in a regional capital where we would get together and see people that looked like us again and acted like us again and read the same books that we read. It was really a great bonding experience with my colleagues, but after a while, we stopped going into the apartment and we stayed in the villages because that was our new family and the food was a lot more reliable in the villages than it was in the bigger cities and the water was too.

Anyway, after all this, two years, I traveled down to Benaris and Bombay, Mumbai, I should say, and spent about a month and a half in Goa and sort of mellowed out and then flew back to Europe and took three months to get home, three months.

It was brilliant, and I highly recommend it,

and it built a better citizen. I am a much better citizen now than I was before I left. I think that one of the three great benefits of volunteerism is what it does to the citizenry of the countries.

A couple of other thoughts and I will finish up; I just saw on TV, on Washington TV the other day, that volunteerism in this country is up 7 or 8 percent since the year 2000 which is great. It is up from 20 percent to 27 percent, still not enough, but it is growing. I hope it continues.

President Bush, I know, made strong arguments for more volunteerism. Remember, he was asking people to give 1,000 hours -- 1,000 hours -- of their time to their country in volunteer effort. Colin Powell led a remarkable effort. President Clinton brought a number of our PCVs down to the White House when he started the AmeriCorps Project. We met with Eli Segal and talked about that. There is a vein, a deep vein in this country for volunteerism. Mr. Eisner with AmeriCorps has done a remarkable job of organizing and managing that pulse of volunteerism. Mark Yeard (?), a very good personal friend of mine,

now President of a college up in upstate New York, a Peace Corps Director for a while, we worked together to try grow, as is your goal, a doubling of the Peace Corps. This fellow here really has a lot of authorship of the Peace Corps itself, a remarkable career for Senator Wofford.

I applaud what you are doing. I am intrigued by the idea of members of Congress, the House and Senate, nominating individuals for volunteer fellowships. This coming Saturday, I will go back home and meet with my military advisor to nominate people for West Point and Annapolis and Coast Guard and Air Force, and that is a wonderful day. You are just absolutely inspired by these young people that you meet that day.

I think we should look at exchange programs. One of the things I was able to do in my role as Chairman of the Friends of Ireland, which is something that you probably know nothing about but we have been very involved in the peace process, is an exchange program where we take these kids out of the ghettos, Protestant and Catholic, in Northern Ireland and bring

them here, help them to get jobs, get a career, and go back home and be builders of the new Northern Ireland. It has been very interesting, very successful, I think, and very under-publicized, but that is fine.

The idea of bringing volunteers, not just from the United States to the other parts of the world, but we have a lot to gain from bringing people from other countries here to cross-pollinate our ideas and our traditions and the things that we value or need to be valuing that we used to value that we don't value in this country. So that sort of exchange is of great benefit.

Also, I am entertaining this idea of a volunteerism caucus within the Congress that I know there is a real interest in, and I have not committed to that yet because I need to know a little bit more about it because, as you know, we have lots of caucuses on the Hill, some of which are very effective, some are not.

I have to run up and vote for my constituents in Syracuse and upstate New York, but I really applaud what you are doing and I would love to

stay here and swap stories and hear what everybody else has to say. Unfortunately, my life is not my own now. So thank you and good luck to everyone, and I applaud what you are doing.

(Applause)

DAVID CAPRARA: Now, I have another Congressman from the House, a Democrat, Sam Farr from California who also served at the Peace Corps joining us at 4:00 this afternoon, so you can see the kind of bipartisanship that is emerging around this issue.

In the interest of time and also votes in the Senate coming up; Senator Norm Coleman was sworn in as U.S. Senator from Minnesota in January, 2003. He serves on the Senate Committees of Agriculture, Homeland Security, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Foreign Relations, where he has been a leading voice in support of international service and development. He has been a leader in fostering exchanges of people and ideas through initiatives such as the Peace Corps and student exchange. His distinguished work in the Foreign Relations Committee has included chairing the

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere that oversees Peace Corps, and he has traveled through Central and South American countries, furthering American good will.

Senator, thank you for bringing your unique leadership to this important launch of international service and volunteering.

HON. COLEMAN: You can see from the comments of Congressman Walsh that the Peace Corps builds great Americans, great citizens. I was just proud to sit and listen to him.

I appreciate, by the way, the leadership and scholarship of Brookings. It is interesting that when I got elected the Mayor of St. Paul, my opponent was a very passionate about AmeriCorps. That was the center of his whole agenda, and he lost. The very first thing I did as mayor was brought on that part of this agenda and began that in St. Paul and it was one of the smartest things that I did and it served my community well. So I want to congratulate you.

I understand that one of my fellow Minnesotans, Peace Corps Director, Ron Tschetter, was

here earlier today. We only have five million people in Minnesota, but we think we should have at least two Minnesotans involved in every discussion of every issue. That is kind of the way Minnesotans think.

It is tremendous to share this event with Senator Wofford. President Kennedy stirred up a lot of my generation and Congressman Walsh's generation with his call to national service of so many kinds beyond the military option. If anyone doubts whether language matters, try to calculate the impact of these 17 words: "Ask not what your Country can do for you; ask what you can do for your Country."

In a figurative sense, when President Kennedy raised that torch, Harris Wofford was standing at this side, holding the matches. He carries on with tremendous enthusiasm because he knows service is good for people of all ages, for communities of all kinds, and for the life of the entire planet.

Dr. King once said that everybody can be great because everybody can serve. Actually, I think he went on to say that you don't have to have a Ph.D. to serve. You don't even have to know whether your

nouns and verbs agree to serve. He said, all you need is a heart full of love and a soul dedicated to grace.

It goes without saying that we live in a time of inexorable change. All around us, everything imaginable is either digitized or commoditized or both. When you drive into a drive-thru of a certain Burger King in the Twin Cities, Minneapolis, and the voice says, "do you want fries," that is coming from Pakistan, not a Pakistani Minnesotan. After two bounces of a satellite, it comes from Pakistan where somebody at a computer screen sends the instructions to the kitchen crew. Services that used to be as personal as a house call or a math lesson have become so systemized, standardized, and franchised that healthcare and education become a commodity. That trend, we are coming together today, I believe to resist.

We didn't come together to talk about the War on Terror and how things are proceeding in Afghanistan, but I think that is a central reality of the international situation. Push came to shove in 9/11, and American is reacting out of necessity. But

it would be a travesty to allow our nation to be characterized as a nation bent on building an empire in a classical historical sense. If we are to prevent that notion from taking hold, we have a tremendous amount of work to do to give the world a more representative picture of the heart and soul of America.

Many years ago, Marshall McLuhan said, "The medium is the message."

If America's message is we care, we respect other cultures, and we want to globalize domestic values not just markets, then what is the medium? I submit the medium is thousands of Americans of good will heading out to the nations of the world in service, and thousands of international students coming to the United States to see our society close up through their own eyes. That medium communicates American know-how, American enthusiasm, American optimism, and American respect. The American notion of respect, I think, is one of the oldest on the planet. Friendship based on mutual service.

I have been to China several times. On my

last trip, I met with many top leaders. I got the chance to play ping-pong with Jiang Jialiang, by the way, a three-time world champion. He probably preferred my career choice of politics rather than competitive ping-pong. But I came away from those high level meetings, saying I can probably do more long-term for Chinese-American relations by making sure that 1,200 Chinese students studying at Minnesota colleges and universities have a full and welcoming experience.

Some of the successful work we did during mayoral days when I was mayor of St. Paul from 1994 to 2002 was with immigrant communities in St. Paul, Minnesota, and it taught me an important lesson. We need to avoid what is called the missionary concept. If we show up in Siam, a wise, wealthy American here to help you poor, ignorant people, they are not likely to receive us well.

When any two people successfully come together in friendship, they realize that they both have needs and they both have resources. Places that are resource-poor are quite often most meaningfully

rich. So it is an even exchange. There is no need to ask the question of who benefits more from the Peace Corps, the host country or the sending country. It is a huge win-win. Human needs are met and leadership is developed on both ends. That is what you saw and heard from the Congressman.

You have already identified some of the obstacles that stand between where we are and where we all in this room at least agree we need to get. I hope today is a fertile session where you tell us what we need to accomplish, the common goal.

What I have already heard and learned are these steps toward a scaled-up version of international service in this country. Let me run through a few little together-we-need-tos.

One, increase engagement with the private sector and help them view international service as an element of good corporate citizenship. You need folks with a shared vision.

I love to tell the story of Andrew and Mrs. Carnegie, great philanthropists at the turn of the century. Carnegie would write a check to cover the

deficits of the New York Philharmonic. At the end of the year, the secretary comes up to Mr. Carnegie and says, "Mr. Carnegie, our debt this year is \$60,000. Will you write a check?"

Carnegie goes to write the check. He says, "Wait, Mr. Secretary, if you raise \$30,000, I will give you the other \$30,000."

The secretary accepts the challenges and comes back the very next day. She says, "Mr. Carnegie, we raised the other \$30,000. Write your check."

Carnegie writes the check. He goes to hand it over. He says, "By the way, Mr. Secretary, where did you get the other \$30,000 from?"

And the secretary says, "From Mrs. Carnegie."

I tell you that story because I want you to cement in your mind shared vision. When two entities have a shared goal of where they have to go, remarkable things can happen. You need the private sector involved more fully and completely in this effort.

We need to seek ways to strengthen and expand current government programs like the Peace Corps. Several of us have been fighting for years to get Congress to appropriate the funds to achieve the President's vision of doubling the Peace Corps size, and we will continue that effort in the new Congress.

We need to inventory the obstacles and incentives for more people to volunteer and strategize where we can do the most good in tight budget times. I know that Director Tschetter talked about a program in St. Paul, Minnesota with Metro State University. We take folks who have a two-year Associates Degree and allow them to work through the Peace Corps to get their Bachelor's Degree -- efficient, cost-effective, shared vision, getting things done.

We need to strengthen the link between international volunteerism and international study. I hope some of you will look at my legislation and increase the number of Americans studying abroad and see how we can piggyback service and learning opportunities at the same time. I am signing up as a supporter of the Congressional Global Service

Fellowship Program. I think that is another great work opportunity, and I will work with you on that.

(Applause)

HON. COLEMAN: I believe we can do a better job of tapping into the baby boomer generation as potential volunteers. I actually graduated in 1971. I should have graduated in 1970, but that is another story. There are a lot of us around. We have a lot of former revolutionaries out there who are retiring in their fifties and have a tremendous skill set to offer and want to make the most of the second half of their longer lifespans, an important opportunity.

Those are all suggestions of how we can augment what is already a stronger part of the Peace Corps. I think if we get carried away with any thoughts of an overall overhaul of the Peace Corps, it will do more harm than good. I think we should use Peter Drucker's definition of management as a guide. Our goal should be to make the program's strengths more effective and its weaknesses irrelevant.

Let me conclude where I began. We have almost 50 years of evidence that international service

works all the way around. We should not do virtual international service by digitizing or commoditizing service. Friendship, the medium for communicating the best of America, does not travel through fiber optic cables or bounce off satellites. It begins and ends with people.

As my mom once told me, "You can't microwave relationships. The only way to cook a really good one is in the crockpot."

Thank you.

(Applause)

HON. COLEMAN: I have to go preside now. It will be the last time I will be presiding for the next two years, so I need to make the most of every moment.

(Applause)

Mr. Caprara: Thank you again, Senator Coleman.

At this time, we will return to the top of the order for this afternoon's policy session.

I would like to welcome back Dr. Lael Brainard, Vice President and Director of the Brookings Global Economy and Development Program, to give you

some context of how we at Brookings see the international service and volunteering initiative in the context of some greater global challenges and opportunities.

Dr. Brainard formerly served as Deputy National Economic Advisor and Chair of the Deputy Secretary's Committee on International Economics during the Clinton Administration. She also helped shape the 2000 G-8 Development Summit which included leaders of the poorest nations for the first time and laid the foundation for the global fund to fight AIDS, TB, and malaria. She is also currently the distinguished Bernard L. Schwartz Chair in International Economics.

Please welcome Lael, the senior Brookings official giving leadership for this international volunteering initiative.

(Applause)

MS. BRAINARD: Well, it is a pleasure to be on the podium with Senator Wofford and with Mr. Eisner, both of whom have made such a huge difference in this arena.

Just very quickly, why is Brookings doing this? That is what many people have asked. People have the view that Brookings should be focused just on government programs or just on U.S. Government programs or just on U.S. foreign policy.

My answer is: How can Brookings not be working on this issue? There are several shifts, I think, globally that we are really taken with, and they relate centrally, I think, to volunteering and to volunteering internationally.

The first is we are at a juncture in American history where I think the American people know and want to show a different face to the world. If you look at the recent polling that has been done by PIPA (Program on International Policy Attitudes), for instance, the message comes through very loud and clear. We, the respondents, doesn't matter what part of the nation they are from, doesn't matter what political party they are from, we want to show the world a partner. We want to be working with other citizens of different countries in partnership around shared values and not imposing a kind of America first

agenda unilaterally. How better to do that than by working individually, person to person, in communities, locally as partners?

Secondly, a recent polling on the flipside of it done by Terror-Free Networks makes very clear that when people in countries like Pakistan, like Indonesia, places where we are worried about very negative perceptions of the U.S. from an official point of view, still poll tremendously positively on the response to the earthquake and the response to the tsunami. A year later, two years later, there is still tremendous good will that has been built up by the presence of Americans working, motivated purely by humanitarianism, not by some notion of national security or grand strategy.

So I think that is the first trend that throughout the country, you can feel it. I am hoping that the two last speakers from Capitol Hill are the voices we are going to hear in the next few years, embodying that in terms of our policies.

The second big shift, of course, is the tectonic shift that is underway in demographics.

Twenty, thirty years from now, the world will be 30 percent bigger and we will be an even smaller part of it. All that growth is coming about in countries that are currently poorer, developing countries in many cases, and we are going to have to learn to work in partnership with these countries on a very individualized basis. It is absolutely critical that Americans have the same benefits that people from abroad have had for a long time of going abroad and of absorbing those direct experiential relationships that are going to fundamentally change their views just the way we heard Congressman Walsh's views of the world were fundamentally changed by his two years out in the field. So this is something that we need to do as a nation, Americans need to do for our own future and for our own ability to navigate the future.

I guess the final thing that we spend a lot of time looking at here at Brookings is as we think about the nation's soft power, the nation and how it presents itself abroad, government is playing an increasingly small role by any measure. We are very much interested by the many corporations that are in

this room. We have done work with Jane Nelson who is in the room and others, talking about how corporations can be involved in the many countries that are poor that they are operating in, not just by writing checks which is probably the least important thing that they do in the sense that money is very fungible. But when we hear from the IBMs and we hear from the Pfizers and the UPSes and others that they are actually taking that core knowledge and the people who have the skills and networks and they are spending time in communities, transmitting knowledge and absorbing knowledge in two-way flows, it is a much more meaningful way of being involved, I think, in these communities.

As we look at the corporate sector, as we look at the new breed of philanthropists, Gates alone will be right there between the U.K. and France in terms of their giving this year in terms of official versus philanthropic and, of course, when we look at the non-governmental sector of which we are a part, those kinds of channels are going to be increasingly important relative to the official part of the soft

power equation which we also have a huge interest in, by the way. We have done a lot of work there, and it turns out that the Peace Corps is probably the most effective part of our foreign aid apparatus as it exists today.

For all those reasons, this is of core interest to us here at Brookings, and we are delighted that you have honored us by bringing this energy here to Brookings and allowing us to help promote this as a policy issue but also as a partnership issue. So, thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Caprara: Our next speaker is arguably the greatest living statesman of national and international service. The former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, Harris Wofford chairs the Brookings Institution's volunteering project internationally along with John Bridgeland. He also advises the Case Foundation on initiatives relating to civic engagement and youth.

Senator Wofford played an instrumental role in helping Sargent Shriver launch the Peace Corps in

1961 as we have heard earlier. With Congressman John Lewis, he co-authored legislation establishing the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday of Service that CNCS and others celebrate with so many intermediaries and groups throughout the country as a day on, not a day off. He played a decisive role in enacting the Federal legislation that created AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service to which President Clinton appointed me Chief Executive Officer. Senator Wofford was also instrumental in organizing the President's Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia in 1997 which was attended by all living Presidents and led to the creation of America's Promise.

Please welcome our friend and Chairman of this public policy project at Brookings, Senator Harris Wofford.

(Applause)

HON. WOFFORD: David isn't going to let the electricity go out of this room. David Eisner, you deserve the next introduction because to keep this room alive, they are getting better and better, every

one. David Eisner deserves the high-flying introduction for someone who I think is one of the wisest and best public citizens that I have known as a friend. Thank God, he is leading an organization that I have reason to love.

I want to thank Brookings for its leadership in national service over many years and now again in international volunteering for this taskforce and the wisdom of getting David Caprara to pilot this, to move us, to bring us together and the people of this taskforce. Bob of American University; apparently there is a lot of electricity that came out of the university workshop today. I think we are off on a great voyage.

I am responsible for my life now. I don't have any presiding over the Senate, thanks to Rick Santorum. In past days, he made me responsible for my own life. So I can say what I want to.

But the Senator from Minnesota and Jim Walsh; what I want to say is in addition to the wisdom and the thoughtfulness and the passion of Rep. Jim Walsh, the Peace Corps Volunteer, and Norm Coleman,

and the same for if we had all the Democratic would-be candidates from Hilary to Obama, all of them, and McCain and many people at the top of our public life today are committed to just the sort of things we are talking about in both parties. That is the only way we are going to have a quantum leap of the kind that we are together trying to figure out how to make or another metaphor I seem to live by, how you crack the atom of civic power to get that kind of chain reaction that produces a quantum leap. That is what the country needs, and it is thirsting for both parties and the largest party really in world of non-party people to come together and find common ground for the common good.

Jim Walsh talked about wanting to have a great exchange coming this way, a two-way traffic for part of the future of the Peace Corps, not to overhaul the Peace Corps but to add the other dimension to it. It makes me want to say just a few words about lost opportunities and my hope and prayer that we don't lose the opportunity that we may have in these next few years.

I was lucky to go with Sargent Shriver around the world to the first countries to see if anybody wanted the Peace Corps. We had tens of thousands of Americans writing, saying they wanted to go, young people responding and nearly 1,000 of them at University of Michigan saying, if you form this overseas program, we will enlist, we will go, which led Kennedy to say I am going to make a major proposal. We had the considerable concern that we might be giving a great party and no one would come, no country would want us.

So at the first country we stopped at, fortunately, Sargent Shriver was not only one of the greatest people -- a documentary is coming out soon and maybe you will see him on the screen the way he was -- but he was a great salesman. We had a real task because the then, in some sense, leader of the New Africa was Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, the first President of Ghana. Fortunately, he had gone to Lincoln University and knew Franklin Williams -- talking about exchange -- and had a very warm spot for America. Franklin Williams of the Peace Corps then

went with us.

After Sarge made the pitch, Nkrumah said, "Well, we know radiations are coming out of the West and out of America, and we have to be wise and know how to choose the good ones from the bad ones. We don't want your CIA and we don't want your military and we are doubtful about some of your businesses but we want more of some of the others kinds of businesses. But you have convinced me this Peace Corps is a benign ray and that we need it."

He said he didn't want them teaching history of Africa, but he wanted all the English teachers and math teachers and science teachers he could get. Then he said, "But Mr. Shriver, what about taking some young Ghanaian university graduates and letting for two years teach in your schools about African history?"

Sargent Shriver had been President of the School Board of Chicago and said, "We will do it. I can speak for the School Board of Chicago. Will you send them? We will place them."

The CIA, Nkrumah believes, helped overthrow

him within the next six months, so that never happened from Ghana. But we later in the mid-sixties started the Exchange Peace Corps to America, different names at different times, Reverse Peace Corps ended up being called Volunteers to America. It was going fine, and the next Peace Corps volunteer where I had been Peace Corps Director ran it.

Then Congress got wind of it. It is a longer story than I will tell you, believe it or not, but Congress got wind of it and the opponents of what we are talking about come from both parties. Then the Democrats were in charge, and both Democrats and Republicans and particularly the powerful Democrats in charge of appropriations for overseas or American service got up, and if you read the Congressional Record in 1965 or 1966, you would be appalled. What in the world do foreigners have to teach us? Then one notable Democrat said there were only too many anarchists among social workers. Why in the world do we want more anarchists coming in to further corrupt social work in this country? And Congress cut off the money for it.

So a new day is here.

Our colleague, Norm, I think it was, quoted Kennedy's turning ask into a strong verb. I want to call your attention to two all-American words that need to be our watch words. One is "ask". We are engaged in trying to figure out what we should ask of ourselves as our own little community here of commitment and ask of this country and ask of the world.

Then "all" is the other greatest American world. A lot of the workshops over the last months too have had "all" as a proposition, a belief that if we are talking about volunteer service, citizen service, we want all Americans, as part of coming of age and as is part of their old age, to have opportunities and to be asked to serve at home or abroad, all.

Remember the latest proposals for national service. The first proposal was VISTA of modern times which Jim Walsh was thinking about joining instead of the Peace Corps. At that time, Shriver was planning VISTA to go to 500,000 to be the ground troops in a

war on poverty. He had the model of the Civilian Community Corp, the Conservation Corps, CCC, which within four months of Roosevelt signing it in his first month in office had gone to 1,600 camps and more than 300,000 young men in 1,600 camps. Three million and some men turned their lives around and did fantastic work in our national lands before a lot of them or most of them went into the national service of the military kind in World War II two. That was Shriver's model, that the war on poverty needed ground troops in every community on the hardest fronts of education and social service.

VISTA never got to 10,000. The war in Vietnam cut off the funds. Peace Corps was at 16,000 when we left in 1966, aiming to 25,000 in the next year or two with a 100,000 goal in our heads.

In Kennedy's words, he said to some of us as he set off some of the first volunteers overseas, two things on two different occasions. Once: Some day we are going to bring home this idea on a big scale to America.

Secondly, one day he turned and said: This

will be really serious when it is 100,000 a year, and then in one decade, there will be a million Americans, most of them young, who will have firsthand experience in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as he would say. Then we will have a constituency, a strong constituency for a good foreign policy.

Just think in terms of lost opportunity what might have happened if 500,000 VISTAs had been working on the front lines of poverty and education in this country in all those years; and what a million a year or three million plus Peace Corps might have done and might do and might have educated us and others in the world and contributed to the development and education of the world; even to get closer to home, what half a million, let us say, who had gone to predominantly Muslim countries and hundreds of thousands who knew Arabic, what might different if that had happened.

So I think we have the opportunity. The iron is hot because of an election, the result of which, however you want to read it, seems to me a message that people want to go beyond the old politics. They want to go beyond party politics.

They may or may not have things about individuals from the President up or down or out or around that are negative. But what people really want -- and I think it is one reason there is a stirring for Barack Obama -- is the sense that we are going to search for the common ground for the common good.

I hope it bodes well for David Eisner piloting the National Service Fund, and I hope it bodes well for what we are trying to launch here. I hope it bodes well for this first point in the policy options, which if you didn't all get the little 10-point, I think it is, or 9-point agreement we have so far, we will see that it gets sent out to you. It includes author Jack Hawkins. It includes authorizing volunteers for prosperity, and it includes more support for technical and exchange.

But the first point is to double the Peace Corps. The President asked for it. Democrats, if they are serious about wanting to reach out, should reach out to help the President and give him more help than he has gotten from his own party so far to double the Peace Corps. We are not on the track to doing it.

It has been inching up. You have the Director of the Peace Corps, an ex-Peace Corps volunteer, who we heard today made as good a case for the Peace Corps in the most practical and inventive new terms as anyone since Sargent Shriver. This is the time to get on the track to doubling it and then see where we go with the Peace Corps.

Then we are suggesting a new track that can reach to people that the Peace Corps isn't getting, who don't have two years to give in most cases, maybe a year to give, maybe six months; or someone with great skill for a shorter period of time, a surgeon; or a summer, intense summer of intense service. The Congressional Global Service Fellowship idea is an idea that I think is full of power and full of promise, and it is something that in this building has been shaped.

Helen Seevers (?), are you here, Helen? Helen is the initiator of it and our taskforce. I think we have already seen quite an electric response from three members. Are there only two here today so far? Both of them seemed very excited about it in

that other little room that I stumbled into a little while ago.

So that is my shooting of my bolt right now on lost opportunities and with a story that most of you haven't heard because I always look around. My wife said she could endure hearing me speak again if I said one new thing. Maybe you haven't heard what Martin Buber said to my wife and me.

How many have heard? Oh, dear, this is a dangerous question.

How many have heard my story of what Martin Buber said to me and my wife? Raise your hand. Some of the students did upstairs, the volunteers, right.

We went back to Israel up from Ethiopia a few weeks after John Kennedy was killed, and we had missed along talk with Martin Buber that our group had had in 1950 when we worked on a kibbutz in Israel. We had this extraordinary encounter in the dimly lit study of the aging great philosopher. The book, *Paths in Utopia*, I commend to you as beautiful book about utopias that had been tried or planned or pursued in the past and one of which was the community ideas of

Arab-Jewish brotherhood and the kibbutzim scene, et cetera. At the end of his chapter on that in the book, he said, "This idea has been plowed under by the vicious circle of the Arab-Jewish Conflict. But ideas that are right, they rise again when idea and fate meet in a creative hour."

I quoted that to him in our conversation and said, "Do you see that hour coming?"

My wife, the very practical skeptic that kept me often on the right track -- irritatingly so, quite often -- she could not resist almost guffawing and saying, "Well, from what I have seen in the last two weeks, it is going to be a long, long time coming."

When we left, he turned to me and he said, "You know I know I can see you are a romantic, and you are married to a realist. I hope you realize how lucky you are. A romantic like you needs to have a realist as a wife."

Later, Clare said what made her realist was being married to me, but in any case, she didn't like this story.

He then turned to her and said, "My dear, you are right. A meeting of idea and fate coming in a creative hour comes only rarely, but that hour does come. When it comes, I hope you don't miss it because of your realism."

So I hope both in your soul and your mind, you have the romantic and the realist together or you married one or the other, so that we don't miss as many opportunities as we have in the years of my life.

Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Caprara: Thank you, Senator.

The Global Service Policy Fellowship is a Congressional legislative proposal developed by the Brookings International Service Working Group. We met in John Bridgeland's office. We have had several working meetings in the fall. Those ideas came, ladies and gentlemen, from volunteers in this room. It is very heartening today to see an idea that in every Congressional district in America, Congressmen and Senators will nominate a new generation of up to 50,000 service fellows, not unlike the West Point

nomination process but for service in this case.

I think we ought to give them a round of applause for having a senior U.S. Senator, and we have others I would rather not name who are endorsing this idea.

(Applause)

Mr. Caprara: David Eisner is Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service. It is a billion dollar, approximately, Federal or national service sort of aircraft carrier of our nation's volunteer supply lines of SeniorCorps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. David was appointed by President Bush, confirmed by the Senate, and began serving in December, 2003, when I and other colleagues had the great pleasure of meeting him and servicing together at the corporation. So, yes, Senator, I can attest from firsthand experience of David's leadership, his organizational effectiveness, his sense of capacity-building and accountability. Previously, he drew on experiences as VP of AOL-Time Warner where he directed the company's charitable foundation, and I could go

further back.

But many will attest that national service in America was literally saved by David's decisive intervention when he came to the helm of CNCS at a time of incredible crisis three years ago. As Henry Lozano is here, one of our Presidentially-appointed board members, also a lot of credit, I think, goes to the board and the Congress as well. National service has since been successfully navigated with the Congress and AmeriCorps stakeholders on behalf of 75,000 young people and service, and it is more alive and robust than ever as we will hear.

David inspires us as to what entrepreneurial leadership is really all about. He talks about connecting the dots in this sector, and I can't think of anyone who can better explain more the role of U.S. national service in the world at large.

Please welcome David Eisner.

(Applause)

MR. EISNER: Thank you, David, for living up to Senator Wofford's challenge. What an extraordinary introduction. I need to commend you and the Brookings

Institution and the Building Bridges Coalition, our partners at Volunteers for Prosperity, and others for putting on this terrific even. Also thank you for your research brief, International Volunteerism in the United States. It is a very strong, powerful document that is going to help us a lot.

Unlike maybe others, I was actually kind of happy to see two of my overseers from Congress leave the room before I spoke, but my intimidation nevertheless remains pretty high because I have my longtime idol and recent mentor, Harris Wofford, immediately behind me and I have one of my bosses, Henry Lozano, from our Board of Directors in front of me. So I will try to soldier on.

I think to thank Dr. Brainard of Brookings for really moving a lot of the intellectual capacity that is making this discussion alive to happen.

I want to really start by paying tribute to the Peace Corps. At the Corporation, we feel very privileged to count ourselves as a sister agency. For 45 years, the Peace Corps has been a very inspiring symbol of what American can stand for, and the

Corporation has benefited from that experience. At any given time, between a quarter and a third of the staff at the Corporation are former Peace Corps members or former Peace Corps staff. So we have a deep revolving culture, and our members and Peace Corps members also have a deep revolving culture. It is something that we are very proud of.

As you heard from David, the programs I represent are fundamentally domestic: AmeriCorps at 75,000 members strong, including VISTA and NCCC; we have a program, Learn and Serve America through which more than a million American students get on the on-road to a lifetime of service; and our SeniorCorps, foster grandparents, senior companions, RSVP, they comprise 500,000 older Americans giving of their time in communities across the country, many of them committing to 20 hours a week or more, mentoring children or helping frail elderly stay independent in their homes.

Other programs we have: The Martin Luther King Day of Service; the Congress tasked us to help make a day on and not a day off.

Some of the partners for whom we are primary funders that sometimes people don't connect with us: Teach for America, City Year, Habitat for Humanity, Hands On, Points of Light; these are organizations, many of whom get their bulk of funding through the Corporation.

That creates the question that I am sure is one some of your minds: So what on Earth is the head of a domestic volunteer agency doing speaking with you?

I have just a few answers. First of all, because I can't avoid it; I can't tell you how often our agency is asked by other countries to provide technical assistance and support. We have to be very careful. Our statute actually precludes us from using any resources that supports international volunteering. Yet, in order to be consistent with our underlying values, we do meet with folks.

Just in preparation for this, we looked backwards. Since I have been there, we have met with over 80 foreign delegations who came to us, seeking to learn about different programs and how we do our work,

including delegations from Great Britain, Australia, Peru, Brazil, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Kuwait, Oman, Japan, Nepal, South Africa, Ukraine, Poland, Korea, Mexico, Kenya, Morocco, and the list continues on. The British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, sought our advice in trying to implement a program similar to AmeriCorps in the U.K. Very recently over the whole summer, we hosted a delegation from China that is going to be overseeing the volunteer aspects of the 2008 Olympics, and so they came to the Corporation to figure out how exactly do you manage that many volunteers.

One is we can't avoid it. We have to find a way to take this kind of expertise and the way we work and make sure it is accessible and available to the folks that are doing this work in other countries.

Another reason is we have a really interesting model that I wouldn't say we have perfected it, but we have gotten it pretty darn good around public-private partnerships. Last year, the Corporation gave out somewhere in the order \$900 million in grants and support to non-profit

organizations in this country. Those organizations against our grants were able to raise in the private sector 400 million on their own in support of that. That is the kind of public-private work that is really important and that we need to see more of happening internationally. In trying to figure out how these three sectors -- government, the non-profit sector, and business come together -- is, I think, one of the things that we are trying to figure out and that the international volunteering movement has to really work on as well.

The third reason and I think the most important reason that I am here is that -- I wasn't able to be here for all of this morning, but I heard enough and heard enough over lunch to know -- there is a sense of momentum. I have heard phrases like: The iron is hot. People are looking. People have an appetite to do something.

I am here to tell you that there is a factual basis underneath that sense. The pipeline of American volunteers for all service is growing, and it is growing dramatically. Yesterday, we released a new

study that is called Volunteer Growth in America: A Review of Trends since 1974. I think we are distributing it on literature tables. It shows that volunteering today is at a 30-year high, volunteering since 1974. It also shows that there was a dip going into the late eighties and that then volunteering has surged. It has increased by about 32 percent since 1989.

It is really interesting when you look at who is driving this growth in volunteering. It is the people that we have been talking about. The first group that is driving it are the baby boomers. When looking at volunteering, the folks aged 45 to 64, volunteering in that group has increased more than a third, 36.5 percent since 1989. The boomers are responsible for that incredibly large, large appetite in volunteering. We are also seeing seniors volunteer more than they have in the past.

But listen to this: Older teenagers, aged 16 to 19, have more than doubled their volunteering since 1989. It is wonderful confirmation of a trend that we actually spotted last year. Earlier in the

fall, we released a study just on the last five years. Since 2002, college student volunteering has increased 20 percent. We think that this amazing surge, at least part of that momentum, is being sustained because of 9/11, because of the Asian tsunami, because of the growth of service learning in schools and some of the appetite that both the K-12 environment and college has for more service. But all of it is coming together with a sense that how I help my neighbors and how I support my community says something about who I am and who I want to be and it is connected with my sense of responsibility, my sense of duty, and my sense of patriotism in a way that it hasn't been connected before.

Look at a recent example. We know that last year, more than 10 percent of graduates of the Ivy League schools made applications to spend two years, teaching in an urban setting through Teach for America which is just one of our grantees. Many more applied to other grantees. So we are seeing an appetite that is extraordinary, and it is growing. The momentum is very strong.

There is another important factor that our research tells us. The single most important predictor of adult volunteering behavior is how they served and volunteered in their youth.

All this information together tells us that we are seeing a bumper crop of volunteering that is going to be changing the way we all think about volunteering for the next 30 years, and it means that this conference couldn't be happening at a more important time and that all of the organizations that are beginning to think about how do we process our volunteers, how do we make this work, how do we create the best experience that has the best impact on the volunteer and in the country they are serving that that work will be rewarded because the volunteers will be there to experience it.

Let me close with just two challenges that I was going to spend more time stressing, but I was delighted to see that literally everyone that was up here stressed them and I can feel in the air that they are not things that you don't already know. I was going to say there are two answers to the question:

What do we need to do to capture this sense of momentum?

The two answers are always the same. Every time we have an incredible new resource to help people, we learned. All the great foundations from the turn of the century learned them. At the Corporation, we learned them through our AmeriCorps, VISTA, SeniorCorps, and other programs. The first one is we have to have humility. There is no way to impose a solution of any consequence from the outside no matter how powerful or great the resources at our disposal are. The second truth which is connected to the first is that in order to succeed, it can't all be about service; it has to be about building indigenous local capacity for the service to continue.

As we grow to scale and expand America's volunteer pool, we are going to leave it to you and to all of your colleagues to give a lot of attention to building more capacity on the ground where Americans will be volunteering abroad, and I am giving that same message in communities where they will be volunteering in the U.S. because building that local capacity is

really important. It is also important to note that our volunteers, as you have heard several times today, can support not just providing service. They can also support helping build that indigenous capacity.

Overall, we have volunteering at a 30-year high. It was President H. W. Bush who said that service is our greatest export. I hope, as we march forward, that we will be able to think of all the programs of the Corporation working alongside you to recruit more volunteers. Our contribution -- as we have heard, this is about raising our hand -- we have pledged to increase American volunteering by 2010 by an additional 10 million Americans volunteering. We want to grow from 65 million Americans volunteering to 75 million Americans volunteering by 2010, and I believe that a large portion of those will be available for your organizations to build friendships internationally.

Obviously, the work is slow and success doesn't happen overnight, but at the Corporation, we are honored to be with you on this journey and hope that you will continue to see us as a resource and

know that the door is always open to you.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Caprara: Thank you, David.

Do we have hand mics?

We promise you that there will be additional fora and opportunities. We had a wonderful, lively roundtable of volunteers at lunch where they gave input into our program design, thanks to the suggestion by Earl Yates at VEGA today.

I would like to invite Kevin Quigley up just for a last word in this session. We are going to have a little dialogue, but I think time for one. The question put to Kevin was you heard some bold and wonderful policy ideas today. Kevin, by the way, is the President of the National Peace Corps Association, and he is quite an expert at working the Congress and the House and Senate. I asked him just to give us a word about the implications of civic action and moving an agenda like this in the Congress.

As he comes up, I would be remiss if I didn't thank personally on behalf of the whole team, David Schneider -- David, raise your hand -- from

American University.

(Applause)

Mr. Caprara: David got a new title this week, Legislative Assistant to Senator Harris Wofford. He has been the one at AU that has helped us craft the fellowship, get the input from Helen, the volunteers, and many of our team members. I think he shows you as a student leader what is the power of volunteerism. He came out of Kenya where he worked in an interface service project there, and now he is here at Brookings, and he is an applicant to go into the Peace Corps. I am very honored to serve alongside a number of our student leaders that are part of this coalition.

So the final word of this session goes to Kevin Quigley.

MR. QUIGLEY: Thank you very much, David.

Let me just start with two quick questions. How many of you have been Peace Corps volunteers, family members, friends of Peace Corps volunteers? Great.

How many of you are volunteers and do some

form of service? Fabulous.

I think the challenge for all of us is to let our leaders lead. We heard two great comments by Congressman Jim Walsh and Senator Norm Coleman about the appetite out there for all of us to serve. We all know the great things that overseas service does for the individuals who participate in it, the communities they work, and if we are better about bringing that home, the impact that we can have in this country. What I learned from Harris Wofford was the so-called third goal about Peace Corps is not just to bring the message back home but bring the message back home that changes the way that we are in the world, and I think that is what it is about.

For us, I would ask that we all take that service back to our communities, so that our leaders can hear from us how important that is. There are a lot of techniques out there. I think many of you know them but just stating some of the obvious ones. When your leaders are back in your districts, they have town meetings. Go to them. Raise this issue. Let them know it is important. Talk to their staffs.

Write them. Email them. Fax them. I think that is one important part of it.

Another that we as a group have to do more of is raise the profile of this issue and help explain to our country how important this volunteer service overseas is. I think there has to be a media piece of this campaign to raise the profile because certainly one thing we knew back in the sixties when that call to service was asked, everybody in the country heard that. There are so many other things going out there. There is a lot of competition for our time and energy, and we don't hear that call in the same way. So the other call for us today besides talking to our political leaders in all kinds of different ways is calling, helping raise that call for service, and have that be a much more salient part in our public discourse.

Thank you for what you do and, David, for this opportunity.

(Applause)

Mr. Caprara: We are going to take about a five-minute break and reconvene at 3:30 very sharply.

I would like to thank Kevin and Dave and let you know that the policy point outline that Senator Wofford indicated will be shared with everyone in this conference. There have been several working meetings, and there was a work session on it this morning. We will hone the inputs from this morning and provide that to you.

There is a plan to have briefings in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate in late January to February, 2007. We envision by March, there will be Congressional hearings and by April, May, June, there will be actual markup and movement in the U.S. House and Senate on these action items as well as action items that I believe the Administration has met with us about and is already taking action on as we speak.

Thank you for your effectiveness in this session and this work.

I would like to invite up the 3:00 plenary speakers. We are running behind a little bit, if they could come up right now to huddle with us, and we will see you at 3:30. Thank you.

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